



INTERNATIONAL NURSING ASSOCIATION for CLINICAL SIMULATION and LEARNING

The **global leader** in the art and science of healthcare simulation
through excellence in **nursing education, practice, and research**

Healthcare Simulation Standards Endorsement™



Presenter

Kimberly Buholtz, EdD, RN, PED-BC, CNEcl, CHSE-A
Chair, Endorsement Committee





2026 Endorsement Committee

Core Team

- Kimberly Buholtz, Chair
- Carrie Miller, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect
- Kala Streibel, Committee Member
- Tracie White, Committee Member
- Cindy Johnson, Committee Member
- Penni Watts, Board Liaison

Global Reviewers

- Argentina
- Australia
- Canada
- China
- India
- Korea
- Japan
- Oman
- Pakistan
- Saudi Arabia
- Taiwan
- United States



What is Endorsement?

Endorsement IS

- Demonstration of high-quality simulation
- Recognition of healthcare institutions, practices, and programs that demonstrate excellence in applying **Cornerstone Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice®** to their simulation programs.

Endorsement is NOT

- Accreditation
- Compliance with a *society's* core and area-specific standards

The Cornerstones

- Prebriefing: Preparation and Briefing
- Facilitation
- Professional Integrity
- Debriefing



What are the benefits of Endorsement?

- Facilitate sustained application of HSSOBP®
- Recognize all varieties of simulation-based experiences
- Facilitate positive changes that improve simulation education
- Encourage ongoing performance evaluation and improvements
- Improve healthcare education and patient safety

2026 Endorsed Programs

- Bowling Green State University School of Nursing
- College of Coastal Georgia School of Nursing and Health Sciences
- Concordia University St. Paul College of Nursing
- Doña Ana Community College Nursing Simulation Program
- Gonzaga University School of Health Sciences
- Healthcare and Technology Institute, Inc.
- Lone Star College Montgomery Campus Montgomery Simulation Lab
- North Carolina Central University Department of Nursing
- St. John Fisher University Wegmans School of Nursing
- UCSF Health Center for Nursing Excellence and Innovation
- Universidad Austral School of Biomedical Sciences
- University of Maine at Augusta Simulation Program
- University of New Brunswick Faculty of Nursing
- University of North Carolina Charlotte School of Nursing
- University of Southern Maine School of Nursing



Plus 8 Re-Endorsed Programs!



Who is eligible to apply for Endorsement?

- Healthcare Organizations and Educational Institutions
 - Healthcare agencies
 - Hospitals
 - Simulation centers
 - Academic institutions
- Organizations and institutions must be able to provide examples of suitable evidence illustrating application of the Cornerstones
- **Please Note:** INACSL membership is not required to apply for Endorsement



General Cycle Timeline

<https://www.inacsl.org/healthcare-simulation-standards-endorsement>



Task	Cycle 1 (Fall 2026) Dates
Endorsement Informational Webinar	Thursday August 13, 2026 12:00pm CT/1:00pm ET
Letter of Intent Open	Thursday, August 20, 2026
Reviewer Training	Thursday, September 10, 2026 12:00pm CT/1:00pm ET
Reviewers Assigned Practice Review Applications	Tuesday, September 15, 2026
Letter of Intent Deadline	Sunday, September 20, 2026
Application Opens	Monday, September 28, 2026
Reviewer Meeting to Establish Interrater Reliability	Thursday, October 15, 2026 (Time TBD)
Application Deadline	Monday, October 19, 2026
Reviews Take Place	October 23 – November 20, 2026
Follow Up with Missing Reviews	Monday, November 23, 2026
Reviewer Meeting to Discuss Evaluations and Determine Final Endorsement Designations	November 30-December 4, 2026 (Time TBD)
Additional Reviews Conducted (only if necessary)	December 4 – 9, 2026
All Decisions Made and Notifications Sent to Applicants	Monday, December 14, 2026



What is the application process?

- Review [Application Guidelines](#) on INACSL website
- Two annual calls for submission:
 - **Cycle 1: September/October**
 - **Cycle 2: February/March** (includes re-endorsement applications)
- Submit a letter of intent with filing fee
- Create and submit Endorsement Application with filing fee
- No “exemplar” applications posted on website
- Institutions notified of results after Endorsement consensus meeting



Initial Endorsement Fee Structure

Country Category	Filing Fee <i>Paid with submission of letter of intent.</i>	Application Fee <i>Paid with submission of full application packet.</i>
A	\$150 USD	\$2,500 USD
B, C, D	\$100 USD	\$1,500 USD

Re-Endorsement Fee Structure

Country Category	Filing Fee	Application Fee
	<i>Paid with submission of letter of intent.</i>	<i>Paid with submission of full application packet.</i>
A	\$150 USD	\$3,500 USD
B, C, D	\$100 USD	\$2,500 USD

Application Tips

Showcase	Evidence	Timestamps	Accessibility	Submission	Specificity
Showcase evidence that clearly demonstrates each criterion	Use varied evidence (videos, scenarios, policies, narratives, scripts)	Highlight key content with timestamps or brief explanations	Ensure files are accessible throughout the review period	Keep application concise and focused	Provide original, application-specific evidence

Application Opportunities: Prebrief

- Describe simulation and technology orientation and expectations
- Define psychological safety and provide strategies for learners who feel upset or threatened
- Address key prebrief concepts, including the fiction contract and management of sensitive information
- Demonstrate learner progression within the prebrief and across the curriculum
- Connect simulation selection to a needs assessment and identified curricular needs
- Align objectives with learner level and expected outcomes
- Include curricular mapping to demonstrate integration and progression



Application Opportunities: Facilitation

- Align debriefing with simulation learning objectives
- Demonstrate facilitator preparation, training, and ongoing development
- Show regular evaluation and feedback for facilitators
- Demonstrate facilitation appropriate to the learner level
- Show progression and scaling across subsequent simulations
- Demonstrate facilitation beyond the simulation experience
- Evaluate achievement of simulation learning objectives
- Engage and support all learners, including participants and observers





Application Opportunities: Debriefing

- Identify the debriefing framework(s) used across simulation experiences
- Connect debriefing to simulation learning objectives
- Demonstrate consistency between the identified framework and its application
- Include learner and peer feedback to support facilitator evaluation and development
- Demonstrate professionalism and role modeling throughout facilitation



Application Opportunities: Professional Integrity

- Define confidentiality expectations, including documentation and renewal requirements
- Demonstrate integration of the SSH Code of Ethics throughout simulation activities
- Describe simulation-specific DEI/EDI practices and policies
- Demonstrate DEI/EDI integration across all aspects of simulation-based education
- Align simulation practices with relevant professional standards for participants



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Short Communication

Practical Suggestions to Align with Standards: Findings from Endorsement Reviewers

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KEYWORDS

endorsement;
standards of best
practice;
simulation programs

Abstract The purpose of endorsement through International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning is to demonstrate application of the Healthcare Simulation Standards of Best Practice™. Endorsement of simulation centers/programs began in 2022 through the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning. Since inception, the International Nursing Association for Clinical Simulation and Learning Healthcare Simulation Standards Endorsement program has endorsed 32 educational simulation programs and 2 hospital-based simulation programs. All applications are reviewed by a team of simulationists who have gone through the reviewer training. While completing these reviews, the authors identified common areas in which applicants did not meet or only partially met Healthcare Simulation Standards criteria. This paper provides some practical suggestions for meeting specific criteria. We anticipate that the insights shared in this paper could be used by simulation center staff to improve their adherence to and application of the standards.

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How are applications Evaluated?

- Application reviewed against application guidelines (rubric)
 - Each Cornerstone criterion scored (meets, doesn't meet, partially meets)
 - Gestalt of the application
- Two-step scoring process with inter-rater reliability
 - Step 1: Trained reviewers (2 minimum) evaluate each application
 - Step 2: Committee meeting for consensus
- Final evaluation based on the gestalt of the application
 - Endorsed
 - Conditionally Endorsed
 - Not Endorsed



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Endorsement Designations

- **Endorsed:** Three (3) years
- **Conditionally Endorsed**
- **Not Endorsed**
- **Re-endorsed:** Five (5) years



Recognition of Endorsement

Wall plaque

Recognition on the INACSL Website

Logo tagline for institution website

Email signature

Ribbon at conferences

Media opportunity on accomplishment

Marketing Toolkit



What if our program is conditionally endorsed?

- Feedback provided to applicant on areas of exceeding expectations and areas for needing improvement
- Applicant to provide requested information to committee within 1 (one) year for re-evaluation
- Re-payment of filing fees apply



What if our program is not endorsed?

- Feedback provided to applicant on areas of exceeding expectations and areas for needing improvement
- Can re-apply at anytime
- Full application fee required



How do I know when our program needs to apply for re-endorsement? What is required in the application?

- Three (3) years from initial endorsement, five (5) years thereafter
- Re-endorsement cycle is **Cycle 2** (typically opens in January)
- Refer to separate re-endorsement webinar for detailed submission process
- Re-endorsement fees apply



Disclaimer

The suggested evidence is not mandatory, nor exhaustive. Every example for each of the Cornerstone Healthcare Simulation Standards is not required; approval is not based on the volume submitted. The purpose for the examples is to provide tangible descriptions and application of demonstration of adherence and adoption of the Cornerstone Healthcare Simulation Standards.



www.inacsl.org/endorsement



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Questions?

Interested in serving as a reviewer for a future Endorsement cycle? Please submit your Resume/CV during our annual call for volunteers process or reach out to INACSL Staff via email (kwhite@inacsl.org)

